GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:73
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2008
ALCOHOLISM AMONG BSF PERSONNEL
Deora Shri Milind Murli

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that alcoholism among BSF personnel including Jawans who have to spend long stints in lonely barracks is not only affecting their families adversely but is also ruining their physical and mental health as reported in 'Times of India' Dated December 22, 2007;

(b) if so, the extent to which the performance of the personnel at the border is affected;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to dissuade the personnel from indulging in alcoholism;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide counseling sessions for BSF personnel at Guwahati and Tura in Meghalaya; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (c): Counselling and educating BSF personnel against the ills of alcoholism are part of welfare activity to protect the health, morale, efficiency and quality of life, and it does not mean that alcoholism is a serious problem in the Force. In order to dissuade the personnel from indulging in alcoholism or in any other undesirable habits, the Force takes measures on a regular basis that include inter alia, providing recreational facilities, regulating duty hours to ensure rest and relief, team sports and games, training in Yoga and meditation, talks by Doctors and other Specialists, etc.

(d) & (e): Counselling sessions are organized, including that at Guwahati and Tura, based on the assessed requirement and the availability of resource persons.